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Agenda item 105

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Archil **Gheghechkori** (Georgia)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction" was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 65/92 of 8 December 2010.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 3rd meeting, on 3 October 2011, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 87 to 106. The general debate on those items was held at the 3rd to 9th meetings, from 3 to 7 and on 10 and 11 October (see A/C.1/66/PV.3-9). The Committee also held 11 meetings, from 12 to 14, from 17 to 21 and on 24 and 25 October, for an exchange of views with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials, as well as panel discussions with independent experts and follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted at previous sessions (see A/C.1/66/PV.10-20). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 10th to 20th meetings, from 12 to 14, from 17 to 21 and on 24 and 25 October (see A/C.1/66/PV.10-20). Action on all draft resolutions and decisions was taken at the 21st to 24th meetings, from 26 to 28 and on 31 October (see A/C.1/66/PV.21-24).

4. No documents were submitted for consideration under this item.

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/66/L.32

5. At the 21st meeting, on 26 October, the representative of Hungary introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction" (A/C.1/66/L.32), and orally revised as follows:

(a) The words "one hundred and sixty-four" in the second preambular paragraph were replaced by the words "one hundred and sixty-five";

(b) The words "an additional States has" in operative paragraph 1 were replaced by the words "two additional States have".

6. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General concerning the financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/66/L.32.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/66/L.32, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that there are one hundred and sixty-five States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[1] including all the permanent members of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the review conferences of the parties to the Convention, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[2] and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

Welcoming the reaffirmation made in the Final Declaration of the Fourth Review Conference that under all circumstances the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and their development, production and stockpiling are effectively prohibited under article I of the Convention,[3]

Recalling the decision reached at the Sixth Review Conference to hold four annual meetings of the States parties of one week's duration each year commencing in 2007, prior to the Seventh Review Conference, which is to be held no later than the end of 2011, and to hold a one-week meeting of experts to prepare for each meeting of the States parties,[4]

1. *Notes with appreciation* that two additional States have acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[1] reaffirms its call upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and calls upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at the earliest possible date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention;

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1015, No. 14860.

[2] See BWC/CONF.III/23, part II.

[3] See BWC/CONF.IV/9, part II.

[4] See BWC/CONF.VI/6, part III.

2. *Welcomes* the information and data provided to date, as well as the several measures to update the mechanism for the transmission of information in the framework of confidence-building measures agreed upon at the Sixth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed upon at the Third Review Conference;[2]

3. *Recalls* the decisions on all provisions of the Convention reached at the Sixth Review Conference,[4] and calls upon States parties to the Convention to participate in their implementation;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Implementation Support Unit within the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat during the 2007-2010 intersessional process consistent with its mandate and in accordance with the decisions of the Sixth Review Conference;

5. *Welcomes* the successful holding of meetings as part of the 2007-2010 intersessional process, and in this context also welcomes the discussion aimed at the promotion of common understanding and effective action on topics agreed upon at the Sixth Review Conference;

6. *Notes* the success of the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Seventh Review Conference, held in Geneva from 13 to 15 April 2011, and welcomes the convening of the Seventh Review Conference in Geneva from 5 to 22 December 2011 pursuant to the decision of the Preparatory Committee;

7. *Recalls* that the Seventh Review Conference is mandated to consider issues identified in the review of the operation of the Convention as provided for in article XII thereof and any possible consensus follow-up action;

8. *Urges* all States parties to continue to work together to achieve a consensus outcome of the Seventh Review Conference which strengthens the Convention;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the events organized by some States parties for exchanges of views on the work of the Seventh Review Conference;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention, to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the review conferences and to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the Seventh Review Conference;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".